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REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

April 12, 2019

# The Weekly Focus

# Vehicle Technology Shifts Tee Up Long-Term Emissions Puzzle For EPA

Multiple potentially transformative technological shifts among passenger vehicles are creating a long-term challenge for EPA as it tries to limit carbon and conventional air emissions from the sector, with one top agency

official warning of a possible pollution "dystopia" if increased vehicle trips from ride hailing are not paired with vehicle electrification.

#### Latest News

### States Face Uncertain New Burdens From Narrower CWA Jurisdiction Test

State regulators say EPA's proposed Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule will leave them with uncertain and potentially costly burdens to regulate waterbodies that the rule would leave to state discretion, including dealing with losses in federal funding and duplicating federal programs that would be cut back under a narrow reading of the CWA.

# New York Plans To Sue EPA Over Certifying Upper Hudson Cleanup Complete

New York is planning to sue EPA over its decision to certify the upper portion of the Hudson River cleanup as complete even though the agency left the door open to additional future cleanup requirements by issuing a separate review that defers until a future date whether the cleanup is "protective."

# EPA Expands Air Data Waivers For 'Exceptional' Events, Sparking Criticism

EPA has expanded the scope of possible situations where states and industry can exclude air monitoring data showing violations of federal air quality standards from regulatory determinations on Clean Air Act compliance, prompting warnings from one environmentalist that the action is unlawful, though states are welcoming the new policy.

## Oil & Gas Sector Faces New Scrutiny Over Air Pollution In Western States

The booming oil and gas industry is facing new scrutiny over its Clean Air Act permits covering methane and air toxics emissions in Western states, particularly in Colorado where Democrats are codifying sweeping new limits on drilling and more than a dozen companies are facing citizen suits over their allegedly lax air permits.

### Daily Feed

### EPA's final GHG inventory confirms slight emissions cut

Overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 were 0.5 percent lower than in 2016, though the rate of decline is much slower than in previous years.

### House Democrats launch inquiry on EPA ties to utility group

Top Democrats on the House Energy & Commerce Committee are asking a power sector group and eight of the group's member utilities about ties with several current and former Trump EPA officials.

#### Ewire: Senators float carbon measures but face slim odds

In today's Ewire: A bipartisan measure would significantly boost the number of electric vehicles eligible for federal tax breaks, while four Democrats are re-introducing an economy-wide carbon tax plan.

### EPA floats nine new candidates for CASAC vacancy

EPA's list of potential recruits to CASAC includes a diverse range of candidates, including ecologists, atmospheric chemistry experts and toxicologists.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents  $\rightarrow$ 

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